

App. No. 10/806,727

Reply to Final Office Action of October 20, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**A. Summary of the Amendment**

This is a full and timely response to the Final Office Action dated October 20, 2004. Entry of the amendment, although after a Final Office Action, is respectfully requested as the present invention merely cancels the rejected claims and consequently raises no new issues.

By way of the present amendment, claims 1 to 12 are canceled. No claims are added or amended, and no claims have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Thus, claims 13 to 23 remain pending for the Examiner's consideration, with claims 13, and 23 being independent claims.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13 to 23, which are the complete set of claims pending upon entry of the present amendment, are indicated as allowed in the Final Office Action. Applicant thanks the Examiner for a thorough examination of the claims.

C. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 to 12 are rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,491,208 ("James") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,978 ("Arnold"). These claims are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering these rejections moot.

D. Conclusion

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application,

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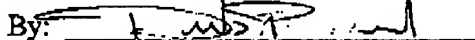
Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys at the below-listed telephone number.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: 1/19, 2005

By: 

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